

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-75. (canceled)

76. (previously presented) A method for prefetching data for a set of objects, each object in the set comprising a plurality of attributes, the method comprising:

prior to receiving a query, creating a structure context description that identifies each object in the set of objects, whereby the structure context description reduces time required to process the query after the query is received;

associating the structure context description with each object in the set of objects;

receiving from an application the query that requests data corresponding to a first attribute of a first object in the set of objects; and

in response to receiving the query:

retrieving data corresponding to the first attribute of the first object;

returning the data corresponding to the first attribute of the first object to the application;

using the structure context description to identify data corresponding to the first attribute of other objects in the set of objects;

retrieving the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects; and

placing in cache the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects for future use.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 76, further comprising storing the structure context description in at least one member of a group comprising memory of a client application program, memory allocated to a data storage system, and a table of a relational database.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 76, comprising retrieving by an object repository the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects.

79. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

prior to receiving a query, creating a structure context description that identifies each object in a set of objects, whereby the structure context description reduces time required to process the query after the query is received;

associating the structure context description with each object in the set of objects;

receiving from an application the query that requests data corresponding to a first attribute of a first object in the set of objects; and

in response to receiving the query:

retrieving data corresponding to the first attribute of the first object;

returning the data corresponding to the first attribute of the first object to the application;

using the structure context description to identify data corresponding to the first attribute of other objects in the set of objects;

retrieving the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects; and

placing in cache the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects for future use.

80. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 79, having stored thereon further computer-executable instructions for storing the structure context description in at least one member of a group comprising memory of a client application program, memory allocated to a data storage system, and a table of a relational database.

81. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 79, wherein the computer-executable instructions for retrieving the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects comprise computer-executable instructions for retrieving by an object repository the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects.

82. (previously presented) A system for prefetching data for a set of objects, each object in the set comprising a plurality of attributes, the system comprising:

- a processor operative to execute computer executable instructions; and
- memory having stored therein computer executable instructions for

performing the following steps:

- prior to receiving a query, creating a structure context description that identifies each object in the set of objects, whereby the structure context description reduces time required to process the query after the query is received;

- associating the structure context description with each object in the set of objects;

- receiving from an application the query that requests data corresponding to a first attribute of a first object in the set of objects; and

- in response to receiving the query:

- retrieving data corresponding to the first attribute of the first object;

- returning the data corresponding to the first attribute of the first object to the application;

- using the structure context description to identify data corresponding to the first attribute of other objects in the set of objects;

- retrieving the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects; and

- placing in cache the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects for future use.

83. (previously presented) The system of claim 82, wherein the structure context description is stored in at least one member of a group comprising memory of a client application program, memory allocated to a data storage system, and a table of a relational database.

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84. (previously presented) The system of claim 82, further comprising an object repository for retrieving the data corresponding to the first attribute of the other objects in the set of objects.

85-93. (canceled)